

REMARKS

Claims 2-10, 12-19, 27, and 30-37 are now pending in the application. Claims 2, 3, 6-10, 12-14, 16-19, and 27 are amended. Claims 30-37 are added.

Claims 1, 11, 28, and 29 are cancelled hereby without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. Claims 20-26 were cancelled without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein by Applicant's amendment filed February 22, 2005. Applicant reserves the right to refile these cancelled claims and contest the rejections thereof in one or more subsequent applications.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The cancellation of claims 1 and 11 has rendered moot the rejections thereof. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 112 rejections.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 6-7, 9, 11, 16-17, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mogaki (U.S. Pat. No. 5,692,345). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The cancellation of claims 1 and 11 has rendered moot the rejections thereof. In addition, claims 6-7, 9, 16-17, and 27 have been amended to change their dependency from a cancelled claim to an allowed claim. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 6-7, 9, 16-17, and 27 by virtue of their dependence from allowed claim 4 or 15 are also allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102(b) rejections.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mogaki. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 8 and 18 have been amended to change their dependency from a cancelled claim to an allowed claim. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 8 and 18 by virtue of their dependence from allowed claims 4 and 15, respectively, are also allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103(a) rejections.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

Claims 4, 5, 15 stand allowed.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action states that claims 28 and 29 are drawn to allowable subject matter. Applicant has cancelled claims 28 and 29 without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. Applicant has added claims 30 and 33, which include features from claim 28. Applicant has also added claims 36 and 37, which include features from claim 29. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 30 (and claims 31 and 32 depending therefrom), claim 33 (and claims 34 and 35 depending therefrom), and claims 36 and 37 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7502.

Applicant believes that the appropriate fee has been included with this filing. If, however, Applicant owes any additional fee(s), the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee(s) to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**. In addition, if there is ever any other fee deficiency or overpayment under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17 in connection with this patent application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiency or overpayment to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**.

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